

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

The Action rejects claims 1, 3-5, 10-14 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (U.S. Pub. 2002/0069359), rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Peinado et al. (U.S.P. 6,775,655), and rejects claims 6-9 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Pfitzmann et al. (Asymmetric Fingerprinting) .

Applicants point out that the filing date, and effective availability of the primary reference, i.e., Watanabe relied on by the Examiner in support of both the §102(e) and a §103 rejections, is September 21, 2001.

The filing date of the present application is March 20, 2001, and predates the effective date of Watanabe.

Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner by telephone on June 2, 2005 to indicate the same and request withdrawal of the Office Action and subsequent allowance of the present application. The Examiner stated that either a response should be filed, or an in-person interview requested, to enable her to further examine the reference.

Accordingly, the current response is filed overcoming the rejections since the primary art relied on, i.e., Watanabe is not available to be used as a reference.

Since features recited by claims 1-20 are not taught, alone or in combination, by available references, the rejections should be withdrawn and claims 1-20 allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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